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statements of existing rules derived largely from recent treaties and conventions. It should be said, however, that these shortcomings are due to the changing condition of international law rather than to the method employed by the author. It may well be doubted whether the time is ripe for a new *treatise*. While the present volume does not rise to the dignity of a treatise in the older sense, it is clear, concise, logical, and accurate. It was designed as a practical text-book for law students, and as such it is excellent. I know of no other book which puts before the student in such concrete form the existing rules of international law.

JOHN HOLLADAY LATANÉ.

The Turco-Italian War and its Problems. With Appendices containing the chief state papers bearing on the subject. By Sir Thomas Barclay. With an additional chapter on Moslem feeling by the Rt. Hon. Aymeer Ali, P. C. London: Constable and Company, Ltd. 1912. pp. xiii, 259.

Italy declared war against Turkey on September 29, 1911, and within two months thereafter this capital little book of Sir Thomas was in press. The preface is dated December, 1911. This means, of course, that the monograph includes nothing of a later date. This is not, however, a drawback, as the purpose of the study is to examine the conduct of Italy in the light of past policy, and of the official correspondence that passed between Italy and Turkey in the month of September. If hitherto unknown documents may put a better face on Italy's action, for the present we are justified in relying upon the Italian ultimatum of September 26, 1911, the Italian declaration of war of the 29th, and the Turkish reply of the 29th to the ultimatum of the 26th, for the official reasons of the war, and in a lesser degree we may take into consideration the semi-official Italian and Turkish statements of their respective cases which appeared in the *London Times* the day following the declaration of war on the 29th. These various documents are printed in chronological order (pp. 109-113) in the first appendix, and place the reader in possession of such facts as the two governments have been minded to lay before the public.

In the ultimatum, Italy asserts that "the state of disorder and neglect in which Tripoli and Cyrenaica are left by Turkey should come to an end, and that these regions should be allowed to enjoy the same progress as that attained by other ports of Northern Africa," that this transformation is, "so far as Italy is concerned, a vital interest of the very first

order, by reason of the small distance separating these countries from the coasts of Italy;" that "all enterprises on the part of Italians, in the aforesaid regions, constantly encounter a systematic opposition of the most obstinate and unwarranted kind."

In regard to the first grievance, no foundation is laid for the claim of Italy to pass upon the economic or social status of the provinces, and the small distance between them and Italy seems a slender basis upon which to rest the right of intervention, unless international law permits a neighbor to suggest without proving the existence of a nuisance and then to abate it at its will and pleasure. The assertion of a vital interest in the provinces is a general statement of a kind to appeal to the public at large, serves as a warning to the Powers that the dispute is not arbitrable and to discount in advance good offices and mediation.

Passing to the special charge, namely, Turkey's opposition to "all enterprises on the part of the Italians," it should also be said that this specification is over-general. It may be that Turkey was opposed to the increase of Italian influence in the provinces, and the present action of Italy justifies the Porte's fears, if the charge were really true. Then again it may well be that some of the Italian projects were of a kind not to be granted without seriously affecting Turkish sovereignty. In the absence of a specific enumeration of them, one cannot venture a positive opinion. The truth of the matter seems to be, as Sir Thomas clearly intimates, that Italy looked upon Tripoli as marked out for Italian acquisition and that the Italian Government took advantage of the Moroccan situation to pluck the fruit that Italian statesmen and politicians had watched with watering mouths. The tree was shaken, the plum fell and the taste is apparently sweet. The world at large is shocked at the whole performance on the part of a Power that has made the arbitration of international differences a cardinal policy — as far as others are concerned. There is a touch of the Adam in all of us, we always insist that others arbitrate; when our own interests are involved, arbitration is seen to have limitations and to be dangerous or inapplicable.

The annexation of Tripoli is a *fait accompli*, to use an expression dear to the diplomatic world, and cannot be undone. Compensation may be offered Turkey, and Sir Thomas shows how the question could be submitted to mediation; the annexation recognized and an indemnity, not less than five million pounds sterling, be assessed by the International Court of Arbitration at The Hague (pp. vi-viii). In municipal law the property would be returned to the owner; in international law, the *status*

quo created by the irresistible aggressor is recognized, and an indemnity, that may or may not amount to a fair purchase price, is forced upon the unwilling vendor.

In the practice of nations, it is still a misfortune, if not actually an indictable crime, to be physically weak.

Sir Thomas writes in fulness of knowledge and with an open mind, willing to believe that there may be some future justification for Italy's conduct, but seeing none sufficient at present. The additional chapter on Moslem feeling (pp. 101-108) shows how unjustifiable attacks on Turkey may easily produce the worst of all human calamities: a religious or holy war. The monograph is a consolation to those who believe that the municipal standard of honorable conduct should be applied to international relations.

JAMES BROWN SCOTT.

L'Arte della Pace. By Michele Asmundo. Catania: L. & S. Scuderi. 1912. pp. 255. L. 4.

The "Art of Peace," in the terminology adopted or invented by Mr. Asmundo, represents diplomacy, and the greater part of this little book consists of a summary sketch of the progress of diplomacy as a counterpoise of war in the relations of European states, from its origin in Italian politics of the middle ages to the present date. As a concise, clear and flowing narrative, it is admirable, and would be tolerably well adapted to serve as a primer covering general international relations during the period mentioned, in one of the encyclopædic series put out by various publishing houses. In this respect, the only criticism to be made arises from the very quality of conciseness commended, which sometimes suggests inaccuracy or incompleteness, where it is really a question of language or of theory undeveloped for lack of space.

It is from a wider point of view, however, that this part of Mr. Asmundo's work is open to remark, and the criticism suggested is this, that it is questionable whether he has, in his narrative, preserved sufficient relief to bring out clearly the real object and meaning of the book.

It must be confessed that we have something of a sense of losing the thread and of flitting down through the centuries among wars, conferences, treaties and new wars, in all of which the art of peace, as a determining factor, has but little chance of being remembered.

It is to the earlier pages that we must turn to find what the author